- Expansion of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and lowering of the interest rate.
- Provision of capital subsidy for construction, modernization and expansion of storages and cold storages.
- Formulation of a new subsidy-linked scheme for establishment of rural godowns.
- Promotion of the food processing industry and value addition in the agriculture through excise exemptions and other interventions.
- Reforms in seeds sector legislation and procedures to provide a facilitative climate for investment, besides enhancing seed replacement rates.

Performance of electrified rail routes

*615. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ever since the Indian Railways began electrifying their main routes, no independent review of the performance of electrified routes has been done by the Ministry;

(b) if so, the total investment made by the Ministry on electrification of routes and the routes which could not be electrified till today; and

(c) the reasons for not conducting review of the performance of electrified routes and by when full review in this regard is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) While no reivew the performance of electrified routes by an agency independent of the Ministry of Railways has been carried out, the performance of electrified routes is reviewed every year in the form of traction-specific line haul cost, compiled by the Statistics Directorate of the Ministry of Railways. However, a Committee has

been constituted for fixing norms for Railway Electrification projects and one of the terms of reference is to evaluate the actual rate of return achieved in certain representative projects.

(b) Since inception, 15398 routes kilometres (24.53% of total network) out of approximately 62000 RKMs have been electrified upto 31.03.2001, with total investment of Rs. 4561.53 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

Youth Development Centre in Assam

*616. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new scheme for setting-up of a Youth Development Centre in Assam;

(b) if so, the number of Youth Development Centres set-up so far in the State; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred for running them and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI): (a) No separate scheme for setting up of Youth Development Centre has been launched especially/ separately for Assam. However, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has been implementing the scheme of Youth Development Centres since 1994-95 in order to strengthen and promote youth activities in rural areas and to provide an intermediate tier between the youth clubs at the village level and the Nehru Yuva Kendras at the District level. The Scheme is being operated entirely through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

(b) So far, 163 Youth Development Centres have been sanctioned in Assam of which 137 have been set up.

(c) As per provisions of the scheme, one-time assistance of Rs. 30,000/- is being provided to each YDC. A sum of Rs. 41.10 lakhs has so far been spent towards establishment of 137 YDCs in Assam. Sanction of an amount of Rs. 7.80 lakhs for 26 YDCs has